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PREACHER, *n. f.* [*prescheur*, Fr. from *preach*.]

1. One who discourses publicly upon religious subjects.
The Lord gave the word; great was the company of the preachers.

You may hear the found of a preacher's voice, when you cannot distinguish what he saith.

Here lies a truly honest man.

One of those few that in this town

Honour all preachers; hear their own.

2. One who inculcates any thing with earnestness and vehemence.

No preacher is listened to but time, which gives us the same train of thought, that elder people have tried in vain to put into our heads before.

PREACHMENT, *n. f.* [*from preach*.] A sermon mentioned in contempt; a discourse affectedly solemn.

Was't you, that revell'd in our parliament,

And made a *preachment* of your high descent.

All this is but a *preachment* upon the text at last.

PRE-AMBLE, *n. f.* [*preambule*, Fr.] Something previous; introduction; preface.

How were it possible that the church should any way else with such ease and certainty provide, that none of her children may, as Adam, dissemble that wretchedness, the penitent confession whereof is so necessary a *preamble*, especially to common prayer.

Truth as in this we do not violate, so neither is the same gainfayed or cooled, no not in those very *preambles* placed before certain readings, wherein the steps of the Latin service book have been somewhat too nearly followed.

Doors shut, visits forbidden, and divers contentions with the queen, all *preambles* of ruin, though now and then he did wing out some petty contentments.

This *preamble* to that history was not improper for this relation.

With *preamble* sweet

Of charming symphony they introduce

Their sacred song, and waken raptures high.

I will not detain you with a long *preamble*.

PRE-AMBULATORY, *adj.* [*from preamble*.] Previous. Not in

PRE-AMBULOUS, *adj.* [*from preamble*.] Previous. Not in

He not only undermineth the base of religion, but destroys the principle *preambulous* unto all belief, and puts upon us the remotest error from truth.

PRE-APPREHENSION, *n. f.* [*pre and apprehend*.] An opinion formed before examination.

A conceit not to be made out by ordinary eyes, but such as regarding the clouds, behold them in shapes conformable to *preapprehension*.

PREASE, *n. f.* *Pres*; crowd. *Spenser*. See *Press*.

A ship into the sacred seas,

New-built, now launch we; and from out our *prease*

Chafe two and fifty youths.

PRE-ASSING, *part. adj.* Crowding. *Spenser*.

PRE-BEND, *n. f.* [*prebenda*, low Latin; *prebende*, Fr.]

1. A stipend granted in cathedral churches.

His excellency gave the doctor a *prebend* in St. Patrick's cathedral.

2. Sometimes, but improperly, a stipendiary of a cathedral; a prebendary.

Deans and canons, or *prebends* of cathedral churches, in their first institution, were of great use, to be of counsel with the bishop.

PREBENDARY, *n. f.* [*prebendarius*, Lat.] A stipendiary of a cathedral.

To lords, to principals, to *prebendaries*.

I bequeath to the Reverend Mr. Grattan, *prebendary* of St. Audon's, my gold bottle-ferew.

PRECARIOUS, *adj.* [*precarious*, Lat. *precaire*, Fr.] Dependent; uncertain, because depending on the will of another; held by courtesy; changeable or alienable at the pleasure of another. No word is more unskilfully used than this with its derivatives. It is used for *uncertain* in all its senses; but it only means uncertain, as dependent on others: thus there are authors who mention the *precariousness* of an account, of the weather, of a die.

What subjects will *precarious* kings regard,

A beggar speaks too softly to be heard.

Those who live under an arbitrary tyrannick power, have no other law but the will of their prince, and consequently no privileges but what are *precarious*.

This little happiness is so very *precarious*, that it wholly depends on the will of others.

He who rejoices in the strength and beauty of youth, should consider by how *precarious* a tenure he holds these advantages, that a thousand accidents may before the next dawn lay all these glories in the dust.

PRECARIOUSLY, *n. f.* [*from precarious*.] Uncertainly by dependence; dependently; at the pleasure of others.

Our scene *precariously* subsists too long

On French translation and Italian song:

Dare to have sense yourselves; assert the stages,

Be justly warm'd with your own native rage.

PRECARIOUSNESS, *n. f.* [*from precarious*.] Uncertainty; dependence on others. The following passage from a book, otherwise elegantly written, affords an example of the impropriety mentioned at the word *precarious*.

Most consumptive people die of the discharge they spit up, which, with the *precariousness* of the symptoms of an oppressed diaphragm from a mere lodgement of extravasated matter, render the operation but little advisable.

PRECAUTION, *n. f.* *precaution*, Fr. [*from precautus*, Lat.] Preservative caution; preventive measures.

Unless our ministers have strong assurances of his falling in with the grand alliance, or not opposing it, they cannot be too circumspect and speedy in taking their *precautions* against any contrary resolution.

To PRECAUTION, *v. a.* [*precautioner*, Fr. from the noun.] To warn beforehand.

By the disgraces, diseases and beggary of hopeful young men brought to ruin, he may be *precautioned*.

PRECEDANT, *adj.* [*This word is, I believe, mistaken by the author for precedant; precedant, Lat. cut or dash before. Nor is it used here in its proper sense.*] previous; antecedent.

That priority of particles of simple matter, influx of the heavens and preparation of matter might be antecedent and *precedant*, not only in order, but in time, to their ordinary productions.

PRECEDENT, *v. a.* [*precedo*, Lat. *preceder*, Fr.]

1. To go before in order of time.

How are we happy, still in fear of harm;

But harm *precedes* not sin.

Arius and Pelagius durst provoke,

To what the centuries *preceding* spoke:

The ruin of a state is generally *preceded* by an universal degeneracy of manners and contempt of religion.

2. To go before according to the adjustment of rank.

PRECEDENCE, *n. f.* [*from precedo*, Lat.]

1. The act or state of going before; priority.

2. Something going before; something past.

I do not like but yet; it does ally

The good *precedence*.

It is an epilogue or discourse, to make plain

Some obscure *precedence* that hath before been said.

3. Adjustment of place.

The constable and marshal had cognizance, touching the rights of place and *precedence*.

4. The foremost place in ceremony.

None sure will claim in hell

Precedence; none, whose portion is small

Of present pain, that with ambitious mind

Will covet more.

The royal olive accompanied him with all his court, and always gave him the *precedence*.

That person hardly will be found,

With gracious form and equal virtue crown'd;

Yet if another could *precedence* claim,

My fixt desires could find no fairer aim.

5. Superiority.

Books will furnish him, and give him light and *precedency* enough to go before a young follower.

Being distracted with different desires, the next inquiry will be, which of them has the *precedency*, in determining the will, to the next action.

PRECEDENT, *adj.* [*precedent*, Fr. *precedens*, Lat.] Former; going before.

Do it at once,

Or thy *precedent* services are all

But accidents unpurpos'd.

Our own *precedent* passions do instruct us.

What levity's in youth.

When you work by the imagination of another, it is necessary that he, by whom you work, have a *precedent* opinion of you, that you can do strange things.

Hippocrates, in his prognosticks, doth make good observations of the diseases that ensue upon the nature of the *precedent* four seasons of the year.

The world, or any part thereof, could not be *precedent* to the creation of man.

Truths, absolutely necessary to salvation, are so clearly revealed, that we cannot err in them, unless we be notoriously wanting to ourselves; herein the fault of the judgment is resolved into a *precedent* default in the will.

PRECEDENT, *n. f.* [*The adjective has the accent on the second syllable, the substantive on the first.*] Any thing that is a rule or example to future times; any thing done before of the same kind.

Examples for cases can but direct as *precedents* only.

Eleven hours I've spent to write it over,

The *precedent* was full as long a doing.

A reason

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A reason mighty, strong and effectual,

A pattern, *precedent* and lively warrant

For me, most wretched, to perform the like.

No pow'r in Venice

Can alter a decree established:

'Twill be recorded for a *precedent*;

And many an error, by the same example,

Will rush into the state.

God, in the administration of his justice, is not tied to *precedents*, and we cannot argue, that the providences of God towards other nations shall be conformable to his dealings with the people of Israel.

Such *precedents* are numberless; we draw

Our right from custom; custom is a law.

PRECEDENTLY, *adv.* [*from precedent*, *adj.*] Beforehand.

PRECENTOR, *n. f.* [*precentor*, Lat. *precentor*, Fr.] He that leads the choir.

Follow this *precentor* of ours, in blessing and magnifying that God of all grace, and never yielding to those enemies, which he died to give us power to resist and overcome.

PRECEPT, *n. f.* [*precepte*, Fr. *preceptum*, Lat.] A rule authoritatively given; a mandate; a commandment; a direction.

The custom of lessons furnishes the very simplest and rudest sort with infallible axioms and *precepts* of sacred truth, delivered even in the very letter of the law of God.

'Tis sufficient, that painting be acknowledged for an art; for it follows, that no arts are without their *precepts*.

A *precept* or commandment consists in, and has respect to, some moral point of doctrine, viz. such as concerns our manners, and our inward and outward good behaviour.

PRECEDENTIAL, *adj.* [*from precept*.] Consisting of precepts. A word not in use.

Men

Can counsel, and give comfort to that grief

Which they themselves not feel; but tasting it,

Their counsel turns to passion, which before

Would give *preceptual* medicine to rage;

Fetter strong madmen in a silken thread,

Charm ach with air, and agony with words.

PRECIPITATE, *adj.* [*precipitatus*, Lat. from *precipit*.] Containing precepts; giving precepts.

The ritual, the *preceptive*, the prophetic and all other parts of sacred writ, were most sedulously, most religiously guarded by them.

As the *preceptive* part enjoins the most exact virtue, so is it most advantageously enforced by the promissory, which, in respect of the rewards, and the manner of proposing them, is adapted to the same end.

The lesson given us here, is *preceptive* to us not to do any thing but upon due consideration.

PRECIPITOR, *n. f.* [*precipitor*, Lat. *precipitor*, Fr.] A teacher; a tutor.

Passionate chiding carries rough language with it, and the names that parents and *precipitors* give children, they will not be ashamed to bestow on others.

It was to thee, great Stagyrte unknown,

And thy *precipitor* of divine renown.

PRECISION, *n. f.* [*from precedo*, *precisus*, Lat.] The act of going before.

PRECINCT, *n. f.* [*precinctus*, Latin.] Outward limit; boundary.

The main body of the sea being one, yet within divers *precincts*, hath divers names; so the catholic church is in like sort divided into a number of distinct societies.

Through all restraint broke loose, he wings his way

Not far off heav'n, in the *precincts* of light,

Directly towards the new-created world.

PRECIPITATE, *n. f.* [*from precipitatus*, Lat.]

1. Value; preciousness.

2. Any thing of high price.

The index or forerunner was too naked whereto to commit their *precipitates*, and hath the tuition of the thumb scarce unto the second joint.

Barbarians seem to exceed them in the curioli of their application of these *precipitates*.

PRECIOUS, *adj.* [*precieux*, Fr. *pretiosus*, Lat.]

1. Valuable; being of great worth.

Many things, which are most *precious*, are neglected only because the value of them lies hid.

I cannot but remember such things were,

That were most *precious* to me.

Why in that ravenel left you wife and children,

Those *precious* motives, those strong knots of love,

Without leave taking?

I never saw

Such *precious* deeds in one that promis'd nought

But beggary and poor luck.

These virtues are the hidden beauties of a soul, which make it lovely and *precious* in his sight, from whom no secrets are concealed.

2. Costly; of great price: as, a precious stone.

Let none admire

That riches grow in hell; that soil may best

Deserve the *precious* bane.

PRECIPITATE, *v. a.* [*precipito*, Lat. *precipiter*, Fr. in all the senses.]

1. To throw headlong.

She had a king to her son in law, yet was, upon dark and unknown reasons, *precipitated* and banished the world into a nunnery.

Ere vengeance

Precipitate thee with augmented pain.

They were wont, upon a superstition, to *precipitate* a man from some high cliff into the sea, tying about him with strings many great fowls.

The virgin from the ground

Upstarting fresh, already clos'd the wound,

Precipitates her flight.

The goddess guides her son, and turns him from the light,

Her self involv'd in clouds, *precipitates* her flight.

2. To hasten unexpectedly.

Short, intermittent and swift recurrent pains do *precipitate* patients into consumptions.

3. To hurry blindly or rashly.

As for having them obnoxious to ruin, if they be of fearful natures, it may do well; but if they be stout and daring, it may *precipitate* their designs, and prove dangerous.

Dear Erythrae, let not such blind fury

Precipitate your thoughts, nor set them workings,

Till time shall lend them better means,

Than lost complaints,

3. To throw

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3. Worthless. An epithet of contempt or irony.

More of the same kind, concerning these *precious* saluts amongst the Turks, may be seen in Pietro della valle.

PRECIOUSLY, *adv.* [*from precious*.]

1. Valuably; to a great price.

2. Contemptibly. In irony.

PRECIOUSNESS, *n. f.* [*from precious*.] Valuableness; worth; price.

Its *preciousness* equalled the price of pearls.

PRECIPICE, *n. f.* [*precipitium*, Lat. *precipice*, Fr.] A headlong steep; a fall perpendicular without gradual declivity.

You take a *precipice* for no leap of danger,

And woo your own destruction.

Where the water dasheth more against the bottom, there it moveth more swiftly and more in *precipice*; for in the breaking of the waves there is ever a *precipice*.

I ere long that *precipice* must tread,

Whence none return, that leads unto the dead.

No stupendous *precipice* denies

Access, no horror turns away our eyes.

Swift down the *precipice* of time it goes,

And sinks in minutes, which in ages role.

His generous mind the fair ideas drew

Of fame and honour, which in dangers lay;

Where wealth, like fruit, on *precipices* grew,

Not to be gather'd but by birds of prey.

Drink as much as you can get; because a good coachman never drives so well as when he is drunk; and then shew your skill, by driving to an inch by a *precipice*.

PRECIPITANCE, *n. f.* [*from precipitant*.] Rash haste; head-

PRECIPITANCY, *n. f.* [*from precipitant*.] long hurry.

Thither they haste with glad *precipitance*.

'Tis not likely that one of a thousand such *precipitancies* should be crowned with so unexpected an issue.

As the chymist, by catching at it too soon, lost the philosophical elixir, so *precipitancy* of our understanding is an occasion of error.

We apply present remedies according unto indications, respecting rather the acuteness of disease and *precipitancy* of occasion, than the rising or setting of stars.